

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /150 W

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P 311240Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5738

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1490

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO, MA

SUBJ: U.S. NAVAL ACTIVITIES INDIAN OCEAN; STATUS OF COMIDEASTFOR

BEGIN SUMMARY: GUIDANCE REQUESTED CONCERNING (A) REPORTED U.S. DEFENSE DEPT STATEMENT THAT U.S. DOES NOT NORMALLY STATION NAVAL VESSELS INDIAN OCEAN AND (B) NEWSPAPER REPORT BAHRAIN HAS ABROGATED AGREEMENT PERMITTING COMIDEASTFOR USE NAVAL BASE THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. MOVEMENT OF U.S. SEVENTH FLEET TASK FORCE INTO INDIAN OCEAN AND REUTER REPORT OF TANZANIAN PROTEST ARE EVOKING CONSIDERABLE MEDIA INTEREST HERE, AND EMBASSY/USIS CAN EXPECT CONTINUING QUERIES. SO FAR, WE HAVE HAD NO OFFICIAL MALAGASY REACTION, BUT IN VIEW TANZANIAN PROTEST, THIS IS POSSIBILITY.

2. MISSION PLANS USE WIRELESS FILES, USINFOS, PLUS OTHER DEPT GUIDANCE AS BASES FOR RESPONSES. HOWEVER, HAVE NOTED IN DEFENSE DEPT BRIEFING OCT 29 (AF 13, OCT 30) FRIEDHEIM IS REPORTED AS SAYING, "UNITED STATES DOES NOT NORMALLY STATION NAVAL VESSELS IN INDIAN OCEAN; LAST TIME ONE WAS SENT WAS WHEN CARRIER AMERICA CRUISED
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THERE IN MARCH 1973". THIS WOULD NOT APPEAR JIBE WITH CONTINUING

PRESENCE OF VESSELS UNDER COMIDEASTFOR IN INDIAN OCEAN, INCLUDING FAIRLY FREQUENT VISITS TO MALAGASY PORTS. ACTION REQUEST: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PRIORITY CLARIFICATION AND ANY SPECIAL GUIDANCE DEPT MAY WISH OFFER.

3. OCT 24 EUROPEAN EDITION HERALD TRIBUNE CARRIES UPI ITEM DATED BAHRAIN, OCT 23, ACCORDING TO WHICH BAHRAIN HAS ANNOUNCED IT HAS UNILATERALLY ABROGATED 1969 AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ALLOWING U.S. NAVY SHIPS TO USE FORMER BRITISH NAVAL BASE. WE CAN FIND NO MENTION OF SUCH ABROGATION IN OFFICIAL MESSAGES WE HAVE RECEIVED. SO FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION SUCH POSSIBLE ABROGATION LOCAL MEDIA. IF AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN ABROGATED, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO MENTION IF GOMR BRINGS UP ISSUE U.S. NAVAL ACTIVITIES INDIAN OCEAN. ACTION REQUEST: WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION STATUS COMIDEASTFOR AT BAHRAIN.

4. BELIEVE OUR CHANCES FOR CONTINUING ACCESS COMIDEASTFOR SHIPS TO MALAGASY PORTS BEST SERVED BY PROMPT WILLINGNESS DISCUSS ISSUE FRANKLY WITH GOMR IF LATTER RAISES.
MENDENHALL

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TAGS: MARR, XO, MA, US, BA
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